



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of New Jersey*

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February 12, 2020

Arthur Aidala, Esq.  
Aidala Burtuna & Kamins  
546 5th Avenue  
New York, NY 10036

Paul Brickfield, Esq.  
Brickfield & Donahue  
70 Grand Ave #100  
River Edge, NJ 07661

Crim. No. 20-881 (SDW)

Re: Plea Agreement with Jeffrey Laino

Dear Mr. Aidala & Mr. Brickfield:

This letter sets forth the plea agreement between your client, JEFFREY LAINO, and the United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey ("this Office"). The Government's offer to enter into this plea agreement will expire on February 28, 2019 if it is not accepted in writing by that date.

**Charge**

Conditioned on the understandings specified below, this Office will accept a guilty plea from JEFFREY LAINO to a one-count Information charging him with distribution of child pornography in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(2)(A). If JEFFREY LAINO enters a guilty plea and is sentenced on this charge, and otherwise fully complies with all of the terms of this agreement, this Office will not initiate any further criminal charges against JEFFREY LAINO for, from in or about January 2019 through in or about June 2019 (a) knowingly distributing and/or receiving child pornography and (b) communicating with a minor regarding child pornography. However, in the

event that a guilty plea in this matter is not entered for any reason or the judgment of conviction entered as a result of this guilty plea does not remain in full force and effect, defendant agrees that any dismissed charges and any other charges that are not time-barred by the applicable statute of limitations on the date this agreement is signed by JEFFREY LAINO may be commenced against him, notwithstanding the expiration of the limitations period after JEFFREY LAINO signs the agreement.

### **Sentencing**

The violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(2) to which JEFFREY LAINO agrees to plead guilty carries a statutory maximum sentence of 20 years' imprisonment, a statutory mandatory minimum sentence of five (5) years' imprisonment, and a statutory maximum fine equal to the greatest of: (1) \$250,000; (2) twice the gross amount of any pecuniary gain that any persons derived from the offense; or (3) twice the gross amount of any pecuniary loss sustained by any victims of the offense. Fines imposed by the sentencing judge may be subject to the payment of interest.

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(b)(1), if the Court determines that JEFFREY LAINO has a prior conviction under Chapter 110, section 1591, Chapters 71, 109A, or 117, or under section 920 of title 10 (article 120 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), or under the laws of any state relating to aggravated sexual abuse, sexual abuse, or abusive sexual conduct involving a minor or ward, or the production, possession, receipt, mailing, sale, distribution, shipment, or transportation of child pornography, or sex trafficking of children, the violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(2) to which JEFFREY LAINO agrees to plead instead carries a mandatory minimum sentence of fifteen (15) years and a statutory maximum prison sentence of forty (40) years.

The sentence to be imposed upon JEFFREY LAINO is within the sole discretion of the sentencing judge, subject to the provisions of the Sentencing Reform Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 3551-3742, and the sentencing judge's consideration of the United States Sentencing Guidelines. The United States Sentencing Guidelines are advisory, not mandatory. The sentencing judge may impose any reasonable sentence up to and including the statutory maximum term of imprisonment and the maximum statutory fine. This Office cannot and does not make any representation or promise as to what guideline range may be found by the sentencing judge, or as to what sentence JEFFREY LAINO ultimately will receive.



Further, in addition to imposing any other penalty on JEFFREY LAINO, the sentencing judge: (1) will order JEFFREY LAINO to pay an assessment of \$100 pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3013, which assessment must be paid by the date of sentencing; (2) must order JEFFREY LAINO to pay restitution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2259; (3) must order forfeiture, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2253; and (4) pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3583, must require JEFFREY LAINO to serve a term of supervised release of at least five (5) years and up to a maximum term of life on supervised release, which will begin at the expiration of any term of imprisonment imposed. Should JEFFREY LAINO be placed on a term of supervised release and subsequently violate any of the conditions of supervised release before the expiration of its term, JEFFREY LAINO may be sentenced to not more than five (5) years' imprisonment in addition to any prison term previously imposed, regardless of the statutory maximum term of imprisonment set forth above and without credit for time previously served on post-release supervision, and may be sentenced to an additional term of supervised release.

However, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3583(k), should JEFFREY LAINO be placed on a term of supervised release and subsequently commit an offense while on release in violation of chapters 109A, 110, or 117, or section 1201 or 1591 of the United States Code, for which imprisonment for a term longer than one (1) year can be imposed, JEFFREY LAINO must be sentenced to at least five (5) years' imprisonment in addition to any prison term previously imposed, regardless of the statutory maximum term of imprisonment set forth above and without credit for time previously served on post release supervision, and may be sentenced to an additional term of supervised release.

In addition, pursuant to the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015, 18 U.S.C. 3014, upon conviction, unless the Sentencing Court finds the defendant to be indigent, an additional mandatory special assessment of \$5,000 must also be imposed.

#### **Rights of This Office Regarding Sentencing**

Except as otherwise provided in this agreement, this Office reserves its right to take any position with respect to the appropriate sentence to be imposed on JEFFREY LAINO by the sentencing judge, to correct any misstatements relating to the sentencing proceedings, and to provide the sentencing judge and the United States Probation Office all law and information relevant to sentencing, favorable or otherwise. In addition, this Office may inform the sentencing judge and the United States Probation Office

of: (1) this agreement; and (2) the full nature and extent of JEFFREY LAINO's activities and relevant conduct with respect to this case.

### **Stipulations**

This Office and JEFFREY LAINO agree to stipulate at sentencing to the statements set forth in the attached Schedule A, which hereby is made a part of this plea agreement. This agreement to stipulate, however, cannot and does not bind the sentencing judge, who may make independent factual findings and may reject any or all of the stipulations entered into by the parties. To the extent that the parties do not stipulate to a particular fact or legal conclusion, each reserves the right to argue the existence of and the effect of any such fact or conclusion upon the sentence. Moreover, this agreement to stipulate on the part of this Office is based on the information and evidence that this Office possesses as of the date of this agreement. Thus, if this Office obtains or receives additional evidence or information prior to sentencing that it determines to be credible and to be materially in conflict with any stipulation in the attached Schedule A, this Office shall not be bound by any such stipulation. A determination that any stipulation is not binding shall not release either this Office or JEFFREY LAINO from any other portion of this agreement, including any other stipulation. If the sentencing court rejects a stipulation, both parties reserve the right to argue on appeal or at post-sentencing proceedings that the sentencing court was within its discretion and authority to do so. These stipulations do not restrict this Office's right to respond to questions from the Court and to correct misinformation that has been provided to the Court.

### **Waiver of Appeal and Post-Sentencing Rights**

As set forth in Schedule A, this Office and JEFFREY LAINO waive certain rights to file an appeal, collateral attack, writ, or motion after sentencing, including but not limited to an appeal under 18 U.S.C. § 3742 or a motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255.

### **Forfeiture**

JEFFREY LAINO agrees, as part of his acceptance of responsibility and pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2253, to forfeit to the United States (1) all computers and computer accessories on which law enforcement, on or about June 5, 2019, discovered visual depictions described in Sections 2251, 2251A, 2252, 2252A, 2252B, and 2260 of Title 18 of the United States Code; (2) all visual depictions described in Sections 2251, 2251A, 2252, 2252A, 2252B, and 2260



of Title 18 of the United States Code that were produced, transported, shipped, or received in violation of chapter 109A of Title 18, United States Code; (3) all property, real and personal, constituting or traceable to gross profits or other proceeds obtained from the offense charged in the Information; and (4) all property, real and personal, used or intended to be used to commit or to promote the commission of the offense charged in the Information and all property traceable to such property (the "Forfeitable Property").

JEFFREY LAINO further agrees to waive all interest in the Forfeitable Property in any administrative or judicial forfeiture proceeding, whether criminal or civil, state or federal. JEFFREY LAINO agrees to consent to the entry of orders of forfeiture for the Forfeitable Property and waives the requirements of Rules 32.2 and 43(a) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure regarding notice of the forfeiture in the charging instrument, announcement of the forfeiture at sentencing, and incorporation of the forfeiture in the judgment. JEFFREY LAINO understands that the forfeiture of the Forfeitable Property is part of the sentence that may be imposed in this case and waives any failure by the court to advise him of this pursuant to Rule 11(b)(1)(J) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure at the guilty plea proceeding.

JEFFREY LAINO hereby waives any and all claims that this forfeiture constitutes an excessive fine and agrees that this forfeiture does not violate the Eighth Amendment.

### **Immigration Consequences**

The defendant understands that, if he is not a citizen of the United States, his guilty plea to the charged offense will likely result in his being subject to immigration proceedings and removed from the United States by making him deportable, excludable, or inadmissible, or ending his naturalization. The defendant understands that the immigration consequences of this plea will be imposed in a separate proceeding before the immigration authorities. The defendant wants and agrees to plead guilty to the charged offense regardless of any immigration consequences of this plea, even if this plea will cause his removal from the United States. The defendant understands that he is bound by his guilty plea regardless of any immigration consequences of the plea. Accordingly, the defendant waives any and all challenges to his guilty plea and to his sentence based on any immigration consequences, and agrees not to seek to withdraw his guilty plea, or to file a direct appeal or any kind of collateral attack challenging his guilty plea,

conviction, or sentence, based on any immigration consequences of his guilty plea.

### **Registration Consequences**

JEFFREY LAINO understands that his guilty plea to the charged offense will likely result in a requirement that he register as a sex offender under federal and state law, and he will be subject to the registration law's requirements and penalties. JEFFREY LAINO wants and agrees to plead guilty to the charged offense regardless of any registration consequences of that plea. JEFFREY LAINO understands that he is bound by his guilty plea regardless of any registration consequences of the plea. Accordingly, JEFFREY LAINO waives any and all challenges to his guilty plea and to his sentence based on any registration consequences, and agrees not to seek to withdraw his guilty plea, or to file a direct appeal or any kind of collateral attack challenging his guilty plea, conviction, or sentence, based on any registration consequences of his guilty plea.

### **Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act**

JEFFREY LAINO has been advised, and understands, that under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act, a federal law, he must register and keep the registration current in each of the following jurisdictions: where JEFFREY LAINO resides; where he is an employee; and where he is a student. JEFFREY LAINO understands that the requirements for registration include providing his name, his social security number, the address of any place where he resides or will reside, the names and addresses of any places where he is or will be an employee or a student, and the license plate number and a description of any vehicle owned or operated by him, among other information. JEFFREY LAINO further understands that the requirement to keep the registration current includes informing at least one jurisdiction in which he resides, is an employee, or is a student not later than three business days after any change of his name, residence, employment, or student status. JEFFREY LAINO has been advised, and understands, that failure to comply with these obligations subjects him to prosecution for failure to register under federal law, 18 U.S.C. § 2250, which carries a statutory maximum prison sentence of 10 years and a statutory maximum fine equal to the greatest of: (1) \$250,000; (2) twice the gross amount of any pecuniary gain that any persons derived from the offense; or (3) twice the gross amount of any pecuniary loss sustained by any victims of the offense.

**Other Provisions**

This agreement is limited to the United States Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey and cannot bind other federal, state, or local authorities. However, this Office will bring this agreement to the attention of other prosecuting offices, if requested to do so.

This agreement was reached without regard to any civil or administrative matters that may be pending or commenced in the future against JEFFREY LAINO. This agreement does not prohibit the United States, any agency thereof (including the Internal Revenue Service), or any third party from initiating or prosecuting any civil or administrative proceeding against JEFFREY LAINO.

No provision of this agreement shall preclude JEFFREY LAINO from pursuing in an appropriate forum, when permitted by law, an appeal, collateral attack, writ, or motion claiming that JEFFREY LAINO received constitutionally ineffective assistance of counsel.



**No Other Promises**

This agreement constitutes the plea agreement between JEFFREY LAINO and this Office and supersedes any previous agreements between them. No additional promises, agreements, or conditions have been made or will be made unless set forth in writing and signed by the parties.

Very truly yours,

CRAIG CARPENITO  
United States Attorney

S/ Zach Intrater

By: ZACH INTRATER  
Assistant United States Attorney

APPROVED:

**S/Daniel Shapiro**

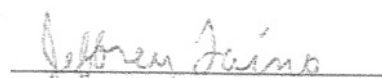
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Daniel Shapiro  
Chief, Economic Crimes Unit



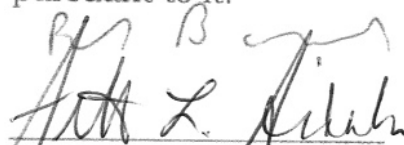
I have received this letter from my attorneys, Arthur Aidala, Esq. and Paul Brickfield, Esq. I have read it. My attorneys and I have discussed it and all of its provisions, including those addressing the charge, sentencing, stipulations, waiver, forfeiture, immigration consequences, and registration consequences. I understand this letter fully. I hereby accept its terms and conditions and acknowledge that it constitutes the plea agreement between the parties. I understand that no additional promises, agreements, or conditions have been made or will be made unless set forth in writing and signed by the parties. I want to plead guilty pursuant to this plea agreement.

AGREED AND ACCEPTED:

  
Jeffrey Laino

Date: 8/12/2020

I have discussed with my client this plea agreement and all of its provisions, including those addressing the charge, sentencing, stipulations, waiver, forfeiture, immigration consequences, and registration consequences. My client understands this plea agreement fully and wants to plead guilty pursuant to it.

  
Arthur Aidala, Esq.  
Paul Brickfield, Esq.

8/12/2020  
Date: 8/13/2020

Counsel to Jeffrey Laino

Plea Agreement with JEFFREY LAINO  
Schedule A

1. This Office and JEFFREY LAINO recognize that the United States Sentencing Guidelines are not binding upon the Court. This Office and JEFFREY LAINO nevertheless agree to the stipulations set forth herein, and agree that the Court should sentence JEFFREY LAINO within the Guidelines range that results from the total Guidelines offense level set forth below. This Office and JEFFREY LAINO further agree that neither party will argue for the imposition of a sentence outside the Guidelines range that results from the agreed total Guidelines offense level.

2. The version of the United States Sentencing Guidelines effective November 1, 2016, applies in this case.

The Offense Conduct

3. The applicable guideline is U.S.S.G. § 2G2.2(a)(2), which carries a Base Offense Level of 22.

4. Specific Offense Characteristic U.S.S.G. § 2G2.2(b)(2) applies in that the material involved a prepubescent minor or a minor who had not attained the age of 12 years. This Specific Offense Characteristic results in an increase of 2 levels.

5. Specific Offense Characteristic U.S.S.G. § 2G2.2(b)(3)(F) applies in that the defendant knowingly engaged in distribution, which results in an increase of 2 levels.

6. Specific Offense Characteristic U.S.S.G. § 2G2.2(b)(7)(A) applies in that the offense involved at least 10 images, but fewer than 150 images. This Specific Offense Characteristic results in an increase of 2 levels.

7. Accordingly, the offense level is 28.

### Additional Factors

8. As of the date of this letter, JEFFREY LAINO has clearly demonstrated a recognition and affirmative acceptance of personal responsibility for the offense charged. Therefore, a downward adjustment of 2 levels for acceptance of responsibility is appropriate if JEFFREY LAINO's acceptance of responsibility continues through the date of sentencing. See U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(a).

9. As of the date of this letter, JEFFREY LAINO has assisted authorities in the investigation or prosecution of his own misconduct by timely notifying authorities of his intention to enter a plea of guilty, thereby permitting this Office to avoid preparing for trial and permitting this Office and the court to allocate their resources efficiently. At sentencing, this Office will move for a further 1 point reduction in JEFFREY LAINO's offense level pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(b) if the following conditions are met: (a) JEFFREY LAINO enters a plea pursuant to this agreement, (b) this Office in its discretion determines that JEFFREY LAINO's acceptance of responsibility has continued through the date of sentencing and JEFFREY LAINO therefore qualifies for a 2 point reduction for acceptance of responsibility pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(a), and (c) JEFFREY LAINO's offense level under the Guidelines prior to the operation of § 3E1.1(a) is 16 or greater.

10. In accordance with the above, the parties agree that the total Guidelines offense level applicable to JEFFREY LAINO is 25 (the "agreed total Guidelines offense level").

11. The parties agree not to seek or argue for any upward or downward departure, adjustment or variance not set forth herein. The parties further agree that a sentence within the Guidelines range that results from the agreed total Guidelines offense level of 25, subject to the mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of 60 months, is reasonable.

12. JEFFREY LAINO knows that he has and, except as noted below in this paragraph, voluntarily waives, the right to file any appeal, any collateral attack, or any other writ or motion, including but not limited to an appeal under 18 U.S.C. § 3742 or a motion under 18 U.S.C. § 2255, which challenges the sentence imposed by the sentencing court if that sentence falls within or below the Guidelines range that results from the agreed total Guidelines offense level of 25. This Office will not file any appeal, motion, or writ which challenges the sentence imposed by the sentencing court if that sentence falls within or above the Guidelines range that results from the agreed total



Guidelines offense level of 25. The parties reserve any right they may have under 18 U.S.C. § 3742 to appeal the sentencing court's determination of the criminal history category. The provisions of this paragraph are binding on the parties even if the Court employs a Guidelines analysis different from that stipulated to herein. Furthermore, if the sentencing court accepts a stipulation, both parties waive the right to file an appeal, collateral attack, writ, or motion claiming that the sentencing court erred in doing so.

13. Both parties reserve the right to oppose or move to dismiss any appeal, collateral attack, writ, or motion barred by the preceding paragraph and to file or to oppose any appeal, collateral attack, writ or motion not barred by the preceding paragraph.